Barn system

Barn systems give hens:

- enough room to move around, flap their wings and stretch and exercise away from the other hens if they choose
- enough perches to roost and nest boxes where they can lay their eggs
- floor litter, such as sawdust, to help the hens carry out other natural behaviours such as scratching, foraging and dustbathing.



How many egg-laying hens are kept in barns?

Answer: About 1 million egg-laying hens are kept in barns in the UK.

The RSPCA wants to see all battery cages replaced with barn or free-range systems, which help to keep hens happy and healthy.

